



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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PRIMATES WELCOME

EL SALVADOR VOW

DPS 83063

NEW YORK (DPS, April 14) -- Presiding Bishop John M. Allin and Archbishop Edward W. Scott of Canada have cabled the president of El Salvador to continue to press their concern for a full probe of the massacre of seven men at a Church-run farm.

In a Spanish-language cable to Dr. Alvaro Alfredo Magana the two primates said "We look to your words and actions for the assurance and realization of domestic tranquility in a country that strives to live up to its name: El Salvador."

The cable was sent after Bishop Edward Haynsworth, the Episcopal bishop in charge of El Salvador, spent time there meeting with Magana and other government officials and with leaders of the Church-run CREDHO, the organization in charge of the La Florida farm where the brutal murders took place late last year. Magana has promised a full investigation of the massacre and told Haynsworth that he would visit the farm himself to reassure the remaining occupants of their safety.

Allin and Scott thanked Magana for his efforts and promises and assured him that "the burden of leadership that you carry is the subject of our continuing intercessions."

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DPS 83063/2

The two went on to say "the tragic incident at Hacienda La Florida, where seven men were murdered, has left seven widows and 24 orphans. This human suffering is a horrible reminder of the need for immediate and effective action for justice, civil order, and the assurance of a sound and durable structure for the protection of human rights. We are very much aware that this is only one incident among many that beset your country and call upon your office for action, but we believe that as you are able to administer justice in each such incident, so will your country be enabled to move toward a new society of justice and peace for all."

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FUND SENDS AID

TO QUAKE VICTIMS

DPS 83064

NEW YORK (DPS, April 14) -- A Holy Week earthquake that killed more than 500 people -- many of them worshipers in a devastated Roman Catholic cathedral -- also left about 30,000 people in the Popayan region of Colombia homeless, and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has acted quickly to supply aid.

The Rev. Canon Samir J. Habiby, director of the Episcopal Church's relief and development agency, reported that the Fund has sent a \$10,000 emergency grant to Bishop Bernardo Merino, bishop of the diocese, to aid relief and rehabilitation efforts he has launched.

Early reports from the region indicated that the local government had made heroic efforts to restore water and electricity and maintain order in the wake of the temblor; but there was still a great need for shelters, cooking facilities, fuel, food, potable water, and portable generators.

There was an initial speedy response from the United States and Chile as well as other Latin American nations, from Colombia itself and from the International Red Cross. However, many of these supplies were tied up at intermediate levels. Merino was named to a national panel to investigate the delay and much of the money sent by the Presiding Bishop's Fund is likely to be used for rehabilitation and rebuilding needs rather than for immediate relief.

Although its work among refugees in the United States and victims of war and civil disorder has been most visible lately, the Fund continues its efforts to meet need arising out of natural disasters. The Fund has been instrumental in helping victims of earthquakes in Nicaragua and Costa Rica rebuild shattered villages with homes that are both inexpensive to construct and more quake-resistant than previous dwellings.

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HEALTH CARE VETERAN NAMED

SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER

DPS 83065

NEW YORK (DPS, April 14) -- Marcia L. Newcombe, a nurse and counselor, has been named staff officer for Social Welfare at the Episcopal Church Center.

Newcombe was appointed April 1 by Presiding Bishop John M. Allin. She succeeds Woodrow W. Carter who retired March 31 after 11 years in the post and 15 years on the Church Center staff.

As staff officer for social welfare, she is responsible for working with most of the Church's agencies involved with delivery of human services: welfare, bail and criminal justice reform, and ministries among aging, deaf, alcoholics and other groups. In addition to her work with these social and specialized ministries, Newcombewill monitor social services legislation and serve as ecumenical liaison to educational and activist groups in these areas.

Newcombe's background ranges from hospital nursing through administrative, educational and supervisory experience to private-practice counseling. She is a native of Philadelphia where she studied nursing at Mercy Douglass Hospital and then worked as a surgical nurse there.

Later she worked in a variety of hospital services before beginning to concentrate on psychiatric work. Before joining the Church Center staff she was mental health nurse and supervisor at the outpatient department of South Beach Psychiatric Center in New York.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychiatry from the College of Staten Island and a master's degree in social work from Hunter College.

A member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in New York, she has served her parish as trained lay pastoral minister and as an educator. She is active in a number of professional and civic organizations. Her husband Edward, a retired New York City policeman, is on the staff of the Diocese of New York. They have two children and live on Staten Island.

DPS 83065/2

Carter joined the Church Center staff in 1968 after a career in social work that included case work, supervision, administration, teaching and advocacy, both here and in Canada.

He organized, and served as staff to, a commission on social and specialized ministries that has brought new strength and direction to these fields. The commission is now an active partner in the Church's Coalition for Human Needs and has been a key factor in the establishment of numerous diocesan panels on family life, drug abuse, and aging.

The criminal justice and welfare systems of the country have been a strong interest of Carter's in recent years. He served a lengthy term as chairman of the Ecumenical Minority Bail Bond Committee, a group with a highly-successful record in maintaining access to this part of the justice system for minorities.

Carter has been honored for his work by the Virginia Seminary and by the General Convention and the Executive Council.

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CONNECTICUT BICENTENNIAL

TO FOCUS ON RENEWAL

DPS 83066

By Jean Allen

Communication Officer, Diocese of Connecticut

WOODBURY, Conn. (DPS, April 14) -- How does a diocese celebrate its two hundredth birthday?

The Diocese of Connecticut has chosen remembrance through renewal -- a waiting upon the Holy Spirit -- as its way of celebrating 200 years of existence, worship and mission.

A congregation of 700 gathered in a school auditorium here March 25 for the opening worship of a 20-month celebration that will focus on remembrance of our missionary roots, and, primarily, on spiritual renewal through Bible study and prayer.

The form of celebration took shape at a retreat of lay and clerical leaders of the diocese last summer after Bishop Arthur E. Walmsley asked them to consider "what is God asking us to be and do in this diocese at this time?" Through prayer and Bible study, the participants came to believe that, rather than being called to make plans for the entire diocese, they were being called to allow all members of the diocese to wait on the Holy Spirit's guidance for us as individuals and as a corporate body of Christ.

This discernment was tested through other, similar retreats and the results are a design that seeks to give the same opportunity to all congregations and individuals in the diocese.

The March 25 service included the dedication of a 165-pound wooden cross which -- with a set of communion vessels that had belonged to Bishop Samuel Seabury -- is to be taken around to each congregation during the months of celebration. The two symbols of the Christian faith will remain in each parish for three days.

A liturgy patterned after the three days of Good Friday to Easter with elements of reflection, vigil and celebration was used at the service here and will accompany the cross and vessels for use in each parish.

DPS 83066/2

The direct historical link was enhanced by the presence of Scottish Episcopal Church Bishop Frederick Darwent who is successor to the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, chief consecrator of Seabury, and by the ten priests who serve the parishes whose incumbents had elected Seabury.

The ten elected Seabury at a March 25, 1783 meeting here, and he was consecrated in Aberdeen 20 months later by the non-juring Scottish bishops after English bishops refused to consecrate him since he -- logically enough -- refused to swear the oath of allegiance to the King of England.

Joining Darwent and Walmsley at the opening rites were Connecticut's suffragan Bishops Clarence N. Coleridge and Bradford Hastings; Dr. Charles R. Lawrence, president of the House of Deputies; and Bishop Cyril Wismar of the New England Synod, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

During the fall of 1983, all congregations in the diocese will be asked to provide opportunities for spiritual renewal. This process will be followed by another diocesan-wide celebration in November, 1984 to commemorate the actual consecration of Seabury.

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NEW STEWARDSHIP

POST IS FILLED

DPS 83067

NEW YORK (DPS, April 14) -- Laura Edna Wright, a member of the Church Center staff for the last four years, has been named to the recently authorized post of Associate for Stewardship.

Presiding Bishop John M. Allin made the appointment April 1. The General Convention, which met in New Orleans last September, authorized a second person in the stewardship office beginning this budget year.

Wright will be responsible for conducting diocesan workshops, coordinating department activities and assisting in preparation of stewardship educational programs and materials with the Rev. Henry Free, the stewardship officer.

Wright joined the Church Center staff in 1979 after a career in business. She was serving as administrative assistant to Stewardship Executive, the Rev. Thomas H. Carson Jr., when she was named to the new post.

A life-long Episcopalian, she is a member of the Church of the Redeemer in Astoria, N.Y., a member of the vestry and a trained stewardship consultant for the Diocese of Long Island.

The appointment comes at a time when many dioceses are showing a renewed interest in stewardship and are taking up the enthusiastic affirmation of the last General Convention that the tithe is the basic standard of giving of the Christian. In acknowledging that standard, the bishops and deputies pledged to work toward it in their personal giving and to encourage it within their parishes and dioceses.

Wright is the first woman to serve as a stewardship officer for the Church Center.

She is a widow with two adult children.

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